

MEDIA ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 21, 2005

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CDI AWARDED USDA GRANT TO PROMOTE COOPERATIVE INNOVATION IN THE NORTHEAST

GREENFIELD, MA – The Cooperative Development Institute (CDI) and its Board Chair, Lynda Brushett will celebrate its 10th anniversary on Monday with the announcement of a sizeable federal grant. Congressman John Olver will join United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development State Director, David Tuttle in presenting the nearly \$300,000 grant which will allow CDI to continue its work as a cutting-edge nonprofit dedicated to creating and sustaining Northeastern cooperative businesses.

The grant will assist CDI in lending innovative assistance to organizations throughout New England such as, New England Family Dairy Farms, the Greenfield Regional Community Store, Co-opPlus of Western Massachusetts, Northeast Biodiesel and the River Valley Market.

Monday's funding announcement will be Massachusetts' first delivery of USDA Rural Development funds under new Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns. USDA Rural Development's mission is to deliver programs in a way that will support increasing economic opportunity and improve the quality of life for rural Americans. USDA Rural Development provides equity and technical assistance to finance and foster growth in homeownership, business development, and critical community and technology infrastructure.

WHO: Congressman John Olver
USDA Rural Development State Director, David Tuttle
Lynda Brushett, CDI Board Chair
Steve Alves, Greenfield Regional Community Store
Sally Wright, Co-opPlus of Western MA Board Chair
Rochelle Prunty, River Valley Market General Manager

WHAT: Funding announcement/10th Anniversary Celebration

WHERE: Cooperative Development Institute Offices
277 Federal Street
Greenfield, MA
Phone: (413) 774-7599

WHEN: Monday, January 24, 2005
10:00 AM

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